

HARLEQUIN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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When the Lights Go Out, the Terror Begins: *Wait Until Dark* Comes to Harlequin

Olympia, WA – December 29, 2025 – Harlequin Productions presents *Wait Until Dark* by Frederick Knott, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, January 23 - February 8, 2026 at the State Theater in downtown Olympia. Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb will direct.

She can't see them—but she knows they're there. In this white-knuckle thriller, Susan Hendrix, newly blind, seems an easy mark when three ruthless criminals invade her Greenwich Village apartment. Forty-seven years after its 1966 premiere, Jeffrey Hatcher has adapted Frederick Knott's (Dial 'M' for Murder) original script with crackling, claustrophobic, and calculated efficiency. When the lights go out, survival comes down to nerve, instinct, and the element of surprise. As the climax builds, Susan discovers that her blindness just might be the key to her escape, but she and her tormentors must wait until dark to play out this classic thriller's chilling conclusion.

Wait Until Dark opens Harlequin's 2026 season with a production that raises questions about ability and expectation. Susan Hendrix's blindness is not simply a plot device; it is central to the story's tension and power. Special consultant Chandra Scheschy, a visually impaired theatre professional, has been working closely with the creative team to ensure authenticity and inclusion. Says Scheschy, "You don't see many blind-lead-centered-character shows. To be included in the conversation rather than put aside is so important. I think my expertise and experience will help make the production feel like a more authentic and realistic artistic piece. If things are done right, a new wave of theatregoers might find their way into the fold. People who haven't come before because it wasn't accessible to them."

The production embraces a striking and unconventional design concept. To evoke the chiaroscuro intensity of classic 1940s film noir, *Wait Until Dark* will be presented in monochrome, creating the illusion that the audience is watching a black-and-white thriller unfold live onstage. Stark contrasts of light and shadow heighten the suspense, sharpen the stakes, and pull focus onto the characters' movements and intentions. The result is a visually arresting experience that mirrors Susan's heightened perception and transforms the State Theater into a pressure cooker of suspense, danger, and cinematic style.

For more information about Harlequin's expanded accessibility offerings for 2026, please reference [our press release from December 23, 2025](#).

Publicity photos for the production: <https://harlequinproductions.org/wait-until-dark-publicity-photos/>

The *Wait Until Dark* show page: <https://harlequinproductions.org/show/wait-until-dark/>

Production Information

WHAT: Harlequin Productions presents *Wait Until Dark* by Frederick Knott, adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher. Directed by Producing Artistic Director Aaron Lamb.

WHEN: January 23 – February 8, 2026

WHERE: State Theater, 202 4th Ave East, Olympia, WA 98501

TICKETS:

Tickets are available online at harlequinproductions.org, by phone at 360-786-0151, or in person 12–5:30 pm, Tuesday-Saturday at the State Theater Box Office.

General admission tickets \$49

Senior 60+/Military \$47

Student/Youths Under 25 \$35

Rush Tickets (2 hours prior to showtime) General \$24.50; Teens/Under 20 \$5

SPECIAL DATES FOR THE AUDIENCE:

Opening Night: Friday, January 23 at 7:30 pm

Community Talkback: Sunday, January 25 at 2:00 pm

Closed Captioning: Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 pm

Audio Described: TBA

Pay-What-You-Choose: 3 performances TBA before Opening

Closing Night: Sunday, February 8 at 2:00 pm

CATEGORY: Thriller

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 12 and older with guidance for violence and suspense

CAST:

Susan.....Helen Harvester

Mike.....Matt Shimkus*

Sam.....Travis Tingvall

Roat.....Andy Gordon

Carlino.....Scott C. Brown

Gloria.....Eleanor Rose Kinn

*Indicates membership in the Actor's Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Harlequin Productions is a professional not-for-profit theater company in Olympia, WA. We seek to invigorate, educate, and empower our community and all people to feel more, think more, play more, and judge less through the mirror of real live theatre.